

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071852
ORIGIN SAB-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 L-03 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 /054 R

DRAFTED BY S/AB:DLAZAR
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:EJNADEAU
ARA:CBRAY (SUBSTANCE)
DOD:GENERAL DOLVIN (SUBSTANCE)
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-----021300Z 032122 /50
R 011710Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. THE FOLLOWING WERE PREPARED FOR THE NOON BRIEFING FOR
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

QUESTION. WAS THERE ANOTHER MEETING THIS WEEK OF U.S. AND
PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS ON THE NEW CANAL TREATY? ANSWER.
THERE WERE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY
HERE IN WASHINGTON, IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT NEGOTIATING
ROUND. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET, AS YET, FOR THAT NEXT ROUND.
PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETINGS FOR THE U.S. WERE LTG WELBORN
G. DOLVIN, COLONEL LAWRENCE JACKLEY, AND LTC ROBERT DUKER,
ALL OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND GERALDINE CHESTER OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT. ON THE PANAMANIAN SIDE WERE EDWIN FABREGA
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DR. FLAVIO VELASQUEZ, DR. OMAR JAEN AND ARNOLDO CANO.

QUESTION. THIS IS THE SECOND MEETING IN THE PAST THREE
WEEKS. DOES THAT INDICATE SOMETHING SPECIAL IS HAPPENING?
ANSWER. NO THIS IS OUR NORMAL PROCEDURE, WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS TO LINE OUT MATTERS FOR THE FORMAL NEGOTIATING
ROUNDS. THERE IS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS SERIES

OF MEETINGS.

QUESTION. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT SUBJECTS THE WORKING GROUP COVERED? ANSWER. NO. AS YOU KNOW, WE DO NOT GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS.

QUESTION. ACCORDING TO A UPI DISPATCH OUT OF PANAMA, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT SAID THAT PANAMA HAS REJECTED A U.S. PROPOSAL TO HAND OVER THE PANAMA CANAL BY 1990 IN EXCHANGE FOR AN AGREEMENT TO KEEP U.S. TROOPS IN THE CANAL ZONE FOR "A LONG PERIOD". WAS SUCH A PROPOSAL MADE AND IF SO HOW DOES THIS PANAMANIAN ANNOUNCEMENT AFFECT THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS? ANSWER. AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES I WILL NOT DISCUSS HERE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS UNDER NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES. AS A PART OF THAT I WILL NOT CONFIRM OR DENY STORIES FROM OTHER SOURCES PURPORTING TO REVEAL NEGOTIATING POSITIONS, PROPOSALS, ETC. OF EITHER SIDE.

2. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT THE NOON BRIEFING.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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